

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, January 31, 2000

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 31, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

### U.S.-CHINA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the next session of the 106th Congress, we are going to engage in another heated discussion regarding normal trade relations with China.

In exchange for attaining membership in the World Trade Organization, China has made a number of commitments in regard to its trade policy. Among those commitments are improved market access, tariff reductions, elimination of nontariff quotas, open service sectors and elimination of export subsidies.

While many people are celebrating this alleged win for American businesses, I come this morning to question the actual benefit for the United States of America. China is the fourth largest supplier of U.S. imports and the thirteenth largest buyer of U.S. exports. In

addition, the U.S. trade deficit with China has risen from \$6.2 billion in 1989 to \$57 billion in 1998.

Furthermore, China has a dismal record of complying with prior international agreements, and I think this is an important point. A blatant example concerns intellectual property rights.

The United States Trade Representative can specify under the 1974 Trade Act which countries are violators. They are the "Special 301 Priority Foreign Countries," sort of a designation and those countries that violate U.S. intellectual property rights are so designated. So let us look at the list when it comes to China.

In 1991, China was named a Special 301 violator for intellectual property rights. They sat down with them. They reached an agreement a year later and China said: We will agree to strengthen our intellectual property laws and improve protection for U.S. products in our country. But did they?

In 1994, the United States Trade Representative again identified China as a violator. At this time, many factories in China were pirating compact disks while China trade laws restricted U.S. market access. So an agreement was reached a year later again with China to stem this piracy and enforce the intellectual property rules.

But again in 1996, another year later, the USTR, the United States Trade Representative, designated China as a violator again for not complying. And only when they were threatened with a \$2 billion sanction did China begin to comply.

So China has shown an ability to exploit loopholes in agreements regarding the transfer of military technology. In 1992, China agreed to abide by the rules of the Missile Technology Control Regime and then turned and sold ballistic missile components to Pakistan. Though no technical violation was made, the transfer, of course, was contrary to the spirit of the agreement. China has also aided Pakistan, Iran, and Algeria in the area of nuclear technology and equipment.

Another area of uneasiness is that China has made no attempt to conceal its aggressiveness dealing with military modernization. In addition to arms purchases, such as the Russian built SU-27 fighter, which holds near parity with our F-15 fighter, China has begun construction of two short-range missile bases which now can threaten Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, we also need not forget the enormous damage called by China's

espionage activities resulting in the theft of U.S. thermonuclear design information. The Cox report concluded that elements of this stolen information would help China in building its next generation of mobile ICBMs. In fact, the Washington Times reported on December 6 last year that China is working on a new strategic missile submarine containing smaller nuclear warheads similar to American weapons. Upon completion, China will have the ability to strike U.S. forces anywhere it chooses.

Mr. Speaker, I think the evidence is clear: this country is aggressively expanding its military complex, while at the same time blatantly disregarding international agreements and exploiting loopholes in others.

China has a history of torturing some of its religious leaders and arresting peaceful opposition demonstrators. China has stolen U.S. nuclear secrets and attempted to influence the U.S. political process through what I believe to be illegal campaign contributions.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few illustrations I've outlined in the brief 5 minutes that I have here. There is a longer list of China's predatory tactics. Do we have assurance that China will keep its words the next time. I doubt it.

I bring this to the attention of my colleagues now so that when we have the heated discussion regarding the normalization of trade relations with China they will remember.

### PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SHOULD SERIOUSLY ADDRESS NATIONAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, all the Presidential Republican candidates and Democrats are campaigning today for the Nation's first elections tomorrow. I would like to talk, Mr. Speaker, about what is happening with our national debt. The public debt of the United States that technically every citizen now or our kids and our grandkids eventually are going to have to pay off.

Mr. Speaker, I hope every one of those candidates realizes that this talk about paying down the public debt is somewhat of an untruthful presentation of what is happening with the public debt of this country.

The way we do our bookkeeping here in Washington is sometimes confusing and unquestionably very complicated. But what we have right now is a public debt, as defined in law of \$5.72 trillion, \$5.72 trillion, approaching \$6 trillion.

We made some good decisions this past year to not spend any of the Social Security surplus for other government spending. Excellent start. Excellent beginning. But still, our total national debt continues to increase. Why is the total debt of this country continuing to increase as we brag, and that is Republicans, Democrats, the President, brag that we are balancing the budget and paying down the Federal debt? Here is why.

We have about 112 trust funds. The largest, of course, is the Social Security Trust Fund. But we are borrowing from all of these other trust funds also. The Civil Service Retirement Trust Fund, the Highway Trust Fund, the Airport Trust Fund, the Medicare Trust Fund. From all of these trust funds we are taking the extra money, because we have charged additional taxes more and above what is needed in any particular one year of spending. Now, we are using that money for other government spending.

I am introducing legislation that says let us lower the total debt subject to the debt limit that Congress has to pass and the President has to sign. Let us lower that debt to where it will be at the end of this fiscal year next October 1, and then let us stick to it. Let us make sure that we have the kind of freeze that is going to take the burden off of our kids and our grandkids so that they are not going to end up having to pay for what we consider is very important spending this year.

Mr. Speaker, I am a senior member of the Committee on the Budget. This week we are holding what are called listening sessions, talking about what the Members are willing to do in terms of holding the line on spending.

I am a very strong advocate, and I will encourage at our meetings tomorrow, this week and next week, that we have spending caps for the kind of spending discipline that it allows us.

We have come a long ways. When I first came to Congress in 1993, the projected deficit, in addition to what we were borrowing from Social Security, was over \$200 billion a year. Now, at least, we have balanced the budget in terms of Social Security spending, and that is the largest amount. There will be approximately \$120 billion or \$130 billion more money coming in from Social Security taxes than we need in any one year, so somehow we should be starting to talk about how do we reduce that burden on working men and women of America; and how do we save Social Security in the long run?

It is a huge challenge. We talk about millions and billions and trillions. But, Mr. Speaker, if anybody can conceive

what a trillion dollars is, let me just give what is going to be required to pay out Social Security benefits over the next 75 years over and above what we are going to collect in Social Security taxes.

Over and above what we are going to collect in Social Security taxes over the next 75 years, it is going to take \$120 trillion more money. That has got to either come from increased borrowing, increased taxes, because I suspect the way we have been going in Congress it is not going to be coming from reduced spending in other areas. There are huge challenges before us.

Mr. Speaker, I am a farmer. What we do on the farm is we try to pay off the farm so that our kids do not have to pay off that mortgage. In this country we are continuing to increase the debt to give a bigger mortgage to our kids and our grandkids. Let us turn that around. Let us have the presidential candidates start talking about the seriousness of saving Medicare and saving Social Security and paying down this huge public debt that is facing this country.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Our hearts and hopes and prayers are with all those who face any uncertainty for the day or who must meet the predicaments that each day presents. Where there is this uncertainty, we pray, O gracious God, that You would grant faith and trust; where there are the dilemmas of decisions or the compromises that shade our views, we pray for wisdom. O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come, lead us all in the way of peace and understanding and grant us confidence in Your love to us and to all people. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### MUCH WORK LIES AHEAD

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today we face a new century in America and, as we begin the second session of the 106th Congress, much work lies ahead of us. Over the last few weeks I had the opportunity to tour my great State and meet many of the citizens of the State of Nevada, and during these meetings my constituents expressed what they expect from and need from their Federal Government.

They want a federal commitment to empower local communities to make decisions on school construction and modernization projects, not the Federal Government. They want a health care package which assures access to medically necessary treatments while not eroding the quality of our health care system. They want a real tax cut for hard working Americans that includes the elimination of the marriage penalty tax and the death tax, but these are only a few of the concerns which we will need to address this session.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that we will rise to the challenge and pass responsible legislation which will meet the very needs of not just Nevadans but all Americans.

So let us do as my friend Mills Lane says: let us get it on.

#### THE TORTURE IN SIERRA LEONE MUST STOP

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about what has happened in the African country of Sierra Leone. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and I visited Sierra Leone this past December. We were horrified at the atrocities that we saw; men and women with their arms and legs and ears cut off. Throughout Sierra Leone, rebel groups have tortured and killed and maimed thousands to gain control of the country's diamond industry, and these rebels have committed unbelievable acts that are hard to even look at.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) has introduced legislation to stop the